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ABSTRACT

School-based enterprise (SBE) can be defined as any school-sponsored activity that engages a group of students in producing goods or services for sale to or use by people other than the students involved. The advantages of SBEs include the following: deeper understanding of academic subject matter through application in a practical context, motivation that comes from solving problems with immediate consequences, and generic work skills (such as collaborating in teams and knowing how to use work as a learning experience). This book contains concrete illustrations of these apparent educational, economic, and social benefits, drawn from observations and interviews with students and faculty members in SBEs at 16 sites. The book contains nine chapters organized in four parts. Part 1 provides background information on SBEs and their history, along with examples from 16 schools. Part 2 extols the benefits of SBEs, including their academic, economic, and social contributions. Part 3 contains guidelines for creating a school-based enterprise, with chapters on getting started and running an enterprise for learning. Part 4 takes a look at the future of SBEs, using examples from two schools and proposing a strategy for expansion. The book contains 40 references and is indexed. (KC)

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